

The Facts: Haftar's War Crimes

A compilation of war crimes committed by United States citizen Khalifa Haftar.

1. The [United Nations \(UN\)](#), Secretary-General António Guterres, said in a statement that he was "outraged by reports that at least 44 migrants and refugees, including women and children, have been killed and more than 130 injured". He condemned "this horrendous incident in the strongest terms" and expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the victims, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. An airstrike on a detention centre in Tripoli that killed scores of migrants and refugees "deserves more than condemnation", UN agencies said, as both the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the head of the UN mission in Libya (UNSMIL), insisted that it may amount to a war crime.'
2. According to [Amnesty International](#), "Tajoura migrant detention centre subjected to attacks on 7 and 10 May, while migrants in separate centre shot and injured for refusing to halt Easter prayer service."
3. According to [Amnesty International](#), "shocking video evidence has emerged showing fighters from the Libyan National Army (LNA) carrying out execution-style killings of captured fighters from the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries (SCBR) in the Ganfouda area of Benghazi, said Amnesty International."
4. The [Human Rights Watch](#) reports, "Libyan National Army (LNA) forces may have committed war crimes, including killing and beating civilians, and summarily executing and desecrating bodies of opposition fighters in the eastern city of Benghazi on and around March 18, 2017, Human Rights Watch said today. The army forces allegedly intercepted civilians trying to flee a besieged neighborhood, some accompanied by opposition fighters, and the whereabouts of some civilians are unknown."
5. The [Human Rights Watch](#) "has been tracking violations against civilians in Benghazi since the 2011 uprising. Our researchers were on the ground to document the situation from the first days of the revolution. The Human Rights Watch is writing to you as commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA) to invite your comment on a series of videos and photographs that have appeared on social media since January 2017 that appear to show Major Mahmoud Al-Warfalli, commander of a Special Forces unit under the LNA-linked Army Special Forces, presiding over the execution, or himself carrying out the execution, of captured prisoners."
6. According to the [BBC](#), "the force, led by strongman General Khalifa Haftar, controls a swathe of territory in the east of Libya and is trying to seize the capital, Tripoli. Under international law the desecration of bodies and posting the images online for propaganda is a war crime. The Foreign Office says it takes the allegations extremely seriously and is concerned about the impact the recent violence is having on the civilian population."
7. The [Hill](#) reported, "seven members of Congress both republican and democrat sent a letter demanding that the FBI investigate the possibility that Haftar, a U.S. citizen, has committed war crimes, any new contacts with Haftar or any perception of U.S. links with him will be translated as the administration's support for a potential war criminal in the eyes of the law."
8. [NBC](#) reports, "Four Libyan families are suing rebel leader Khalifa Haftar for alleged war crimes in federal court, accusing the U.S. citizen and renegade general of carrying out an indiscriminate bombing campaign in their home country that has claimed the lives of civilians."

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9. According to [Bloomberg](#), “an attack on a Libyan detention center that killed at least 44 people may constitute a war crime, a United Nations envoy said, adding to international pressure to end a battle for the capital that’s threatening to tear apart the North African OPEC member. Libya’s UN-backed government accused eastern commander Khalifa Haftar of ordering an overnight airstrike that hit the compound for undocumented migrants in the suburbs of the capital, Tripoli. Haftar’s Libyan National Army denied the charge and said the Tripoli-based government was to blame, the pan-Arab TV channel Al-Hadath reported.”
10. According to the [Independent](#), “forces loyal to a powerful Libyan military commander once courted by the west are likely to have committed war crimes in the eastern city of Derna, London rights lawyers have revealed, urging the International Criminal Court to investigate instances of torture, murder and mutilation of corpses. Human rights lawyer Rodney Dixon, of Temple Garden Chambers, reached this conclusion after studying multiple videos and photos taken in Derna and posted online, which purport to show Gen Haftar’s self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) shooting unarmed civilians, stringing up mutilated bodies and indiscriminately shelling residential areas.”
11. According to the [Guardian](#), “two experts – a former top Pentagon attorney and a former official at the international criminal court – said that newly unearthed video evidence suggests that Haftar has been complicit in calling for extrajudicial killings and the unlawful siege of the eastern port city of Derna. In one case, he is believed to have called for the “choking” of Derna just a day after he met Boris Johnson, the UK foreign secretary, in Benghazi.”
12. Libyan Minister of Parliament and former Foreign Minister under Gaddafi Aly Abuzzaakouk said in an interview with [Al Jazeera](#) "Life in Benghazi and in Derna is unbearable, it's worse than the days of Gaddafi. There's no freedom of speech, there's no freedom of law, there are a lot of killings, extrajudicial killings ... I'm very clear that the war crimes committed by Haftar or others should be investigated,
13. According to [Anadolu Agency](#), “East Libya-based military commander Khalifa Haftar has promoted an officer wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes, according to local Libyan sources. Army Major Mahmoud al-Werfalli was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, the sources said Monday on condition of anonymity due to security concerns. Observers see the move as defiance by Haftar to the ICC, which issued an arrest warrant in 2017 for al-Werfalli amid allegations that he had committed war crimes in Libya.”
14. [The Libya Observer](#) reported, “UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet warned that attacks targeting civilians and infrastructure in Tripoli could be classified as war crimes. In a statement, Bachelet called on the parties to the conflict in Libya to abide by international laws and human rights law and to fulfill their responsibilities towards civilians and infrastructure. Bachelet pointed out that the bombing of Mitiga Airport, by Haftar forces last Monday, has obstructed the departure of many civilians from the capital Tripoli.”
15. According to the [Libya Observer](#), “forces of Khalifa Haftar mutilated the body of Firas Al-Kikli after he was killed defending Tripoli. Al-Kikli's family told Libya Al-Ahrar channel that their son was wounded on the battlefield before he was taken prisoner by Haftar's forces. Al-Kikli was later shot dead by the force and his body was mutilated, according to his family. The family confirmed the authenticity of the image circulated on the social platforms, which shows the forces of Haftar, displaying the young man's body on the front of a military vehicle and taking a selfie with him.”

16. On June 26, 2019 the family of the deceased officially filed with United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia Alexandria division case Aida Elzagally, Ayah Tunalli, Alaa Tunalli, Abdulhameed Tunalli, Abdulrrauf Tunalli, Muhammad Tunalli, Abduladeem Tunali, Mais Ahmed Mayouf, Abdulhameed Al-Harramah, v. Khalifa Haftar.

“On April 4, 2019, Msaddek Tunalli was evacuating women and children from an area being indiscriminately bombed by Haftar’s forces in the in the Ayan Zarah District. Msaddek Tunalli was a husband to Plaintiff Aida Elzagally and a father to six children: Plaintiffs Ayah Tunalli, Alaa Tunalli, Abdulhameed Tunalli, Adbulrrauf Tunalli, Muhammad Tunalli, and Adbuladeem Tunalli. The Plaintiffs named above are not left without a husband and father and the only financial support. Plaintiffs Ayah Tunalli, Alaa Tunalli, Abdulhameed Tunalli, Adbulrrauf Tunalli, Muhammad Tunalli, and Adbuladeem Tunalli are severely traumatized by the loss of their father.”

- a. “Haftar’s forces have been killing innocent women and children without any regard for human life.” (Exhibit 1 of court filings)



- b. “Haftar’s forces specifically target civilian neighborhoods and hospitals” (Exhibit 2 of court filings)



- c. "Haftar's forces show extreme brutality and then celebrate killing civilians." (Exhibit 3 of court filings)

